[31st January 1936

Expert opinion regarding the introduction of water meters in the Madras City Municipal Act Amending Bill.

* 663 *Q.*—Mr. C. Basu Dev: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) with regard to the proposal in the Madras City Municipal Act Amending Bill whether any expert was consulted about the wholesale introduction of water meters in the City of Madras; if so, who he is and what his opinion is;

(*b*) what the probable total cost is of supplying meters in Madras and what the expected revenue is to the Corporation of Madras consequent upon such introduction;

(*c*) whether the Government are aware that in Madras there are varying levels affecting the flow of water;

(*d*) whether the Government have ascertained the effect of the rate of the flow of water upon the recording of water meters;

(*e*) whether the Government have considered any proposal to increase the water-supply to Madras by increasing the catchment area of the Red Hills tank; and

(*f*) what the probable cost is of such increase of the catchment area?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The total cost of purchasing and fixing meters is Rs. 7,20,000 and the *net* revenue expected from them after deducting annuity and sinking fund charges and charges for repairs, maintenance, etc., is Rs. 2,34,000.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government have no information.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Does not arise.

Appointment of the staff for the preparation of plans and estimates relating to the Salem drinking water-supply scheme.

* 664 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the staff for the preparation of plans and estimates in connexion with the drinking water-supply to Salem town from the Mettur Reservoir, has been appointed, and if so, when;

(*b*) how many persons the staff consists of; and

(*c*) at what stage the work now is and when it is likely to be finished and brought ready for launching the scheme?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*c*) The Government have already issued orders sanctioning the employment of the following special staff for the preparation of plans and estimates for the Salem Water-Supply Scheme:—

One draughtsman for nine months at Rs. 90 a month.

Two draughtsmen for nine months at Rs. 50 a month each.